



Attorney Docket No. 5051-425

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Dominique Robertson

Serial No.: 09/281,528

Filed: March 30, 1999

For: *METHOD OF SUPPRESSING GENE EXPRESSION IN PLANTS*

Examiner: C. Drabik

Group Art Unit: 1633

#17B

3eta

4/24/02

Date: April 10, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RECEIVED

APR 23 2002

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

AMENDMENT

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated October 11, 2001, please reconsider this application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

In the Claims.

Cancel Claim 35, which is drawn to a non-elected invention without prejudice to the filing of a divisional application therefore.

Cancel Claim 59 for the purposes of rewriting.

Please amend the claims as follows:

C
B
1. (Twice Amended) A geminivirus silencing vector comprising a geminivirus genome comprising:

the geminivirus AL1, AL2 and AL3 coding sequences,
heterologous DNA, said heterologous DNA having at least 80% sequence similarity to a gene endogenous to a plant that occurs naturally in the plant genome,

wherein said heterologous DNA is constitutively expressed and said AL1, AL2 and AL3 coding sequences are bidirectionally transcribed from said geminivirus silencing vector, and

wherein said geminivirus silencing vector silences expression of the endogenous plant gene upon introduction into a plant cell.

04/19/2002 TBESHAH1 00000042 500220 09281528

01 FC:103
02 FC:102

72.00 OP
168.00 OP